

# 2020 VOTERS GUIDE



## LAS CRUCES GENERAL ELECTION TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2020



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League of Women Voters of Southern New Mexico

League of Women Voters of Southern New Mexico:  
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The League of Women Voters of Southern New Mexico (LWVSNM) is a nonpartisan organization that provides information about political issues and candidates for public office in order to promote greater citizen responsibility and participation in government. Because the League is nonpartisan, it DOES NOT support or oppose any political party or candidate. It DOES publish and distribute factual information for citizens to use when preparing to vote.

The information in this Voters Guide was obtained by means of questionnaires sent to all the candidates. Their answers are printed exactly as received by the League. Because of space restrictions, candidates are limited to a specific number of words. Also, lists are converted to paragraphs and responses are converted to normal text.

*Disclaimers: Material in the voting Information section was correct as of September 14, 2020. The League is not responsible for any changes made by the Doña Ana County Bureau of Elections between that date and the election.*

A General Election will be held on Tuesday, November 3, 2020. If you are a citizen of the United States, 18 years of age or older on election day, are registered to vote in Doña Ana County, you may vote in this election. If you live in Districts 2, 4 or 5 you are eligible to vote for a County Commissioner candidate from your district. All eligible voters can vote for all of the other offices.

If you have a question concerning the election, please contact the Dona Ana County Clerk's office at (575) 647-7428 or the online website: <http://www.donaanacounty.org/elections>. The Voters Guide is linked to the LWVSNM website [www.lwvsnm.org](http://www.lwvsnm.org)

THE LAS CRUCES  
**Bulletin**

## VOTING INFORMATION

### REGISTERING TO VOTE

Anyone who wants to vote in this election must be registered to vote in Doña Ana County AND be a resident within the County. You may register to vote at many locations and online. Visit the Doña Ana County website [www.donaanacounty.org/elections/registration](http://www.donaanacounty.org/elections/registration) or in person at the Bureau of Elections in the Doña Ana County Government Center at 845 N. Motel Blvd. to find out how to register.

Registration will be closed by the County Clerk on October 31, 2020.

### VOTING BEFORE ELECTION DAY Absentee Voting

The Doña Ana County Clerk's Office is advising voters that The Center for Voter Information, a third party organization, will be mailing absentee ballot applications to some registered voters in Doña Ana County. While these applications did not originate from the Doña Ana County Clerk's Office, they will

be processed in accordance with state statute if they are returned by voters interested in voting by absentee ballot in the general election.

Applicants who do not complete an application correctly will receive a letter of rejection from the Clerk's Office, and only voters with approved applications will be sent a ballot.

Once an application is approved for a voter, no additional applications are required from that voter for that election. However, those voters who requested an absentee ballot for the 2020 primary election must submit a new application for the 2020 general election in order to receive an absentee ballot.

Voters may request an absentee ballot application from the Clerk's Office by emailing [elections@donaanacounty.org](mailto:elections@donaanacounty.org) or printing an application and mailing it to 845 N. Motel Blvd., Las Cruces, NM 88007. Absentee ballot applications are available on the County Clerk's website.

Online tracking of absentee ballot

application status is available on the Secretary of State's [NMVote.org](http://NMVote.org) portal. The deadline to submit an absentee ballot application is October 20th, and absentee ballots began to be mailed on October 6th. For more information about the 2020 General Election, please contact the Doña Ana County Bureau of Elections at (575) 647-7428 or visit [dacelections.com](http://dacelections.com).

### Voting Convenience Centers

Doña Ana County uses Voting Convenience Centers (VCCs). This allows voting at any location where voters will receive their own true ballot containing the candidates running in their district. Eligible voters may vote at any VCC.

### Early Voting

Voting at the Doña Ana County Government Center will begin on October 6th, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, and continue until Friday, October 30th. This location will also be open on Saturday, October 31st, from

10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., but will be closed for voting on October 12th in observance of Indigenous People's Day.

Early voting at alternate early voting locations will begin at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, October 17th and will remain open Tuesday through Saturday from 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. until October 31st.

- **ANTHONY CITY HALL** 820 Highway 478 Anthony, NM 88021
- **HATCH HIGH SCHOOL** 170 E. Herrera Rd. Hatch, NM 87937
- **DACC - SUNLAND PARK** 3365 McNutt Rd. Sunland Park, NM 88063
- **SONOMA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL** 4201 Northrise Dr. Las Cruces, NM 88011
- **DELORES C WRIGHT EDUCATIONAL CENTER** 400 E. Lisa Dr. Chaparral, NM 88081
- **LAS CRUCES CITY HALL** 700 N. Main St. Las Cruces NM, 88001
- **NMSU - CORBETT CENTER** 1600 International Mall NMSU Campus Same Day Registration will be available

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at all alternate early voting locations and the Doña Ana County Government Center while early voting is taking place. Qualified electors may register to vote or update their existing registration information before they vote.

Absentee ballots may be returned by voters, voters' immediate family members, or voters' caregivers at any early voting site or at the Doña Ana County Clerk's Office.

For more information about the 2020 General Election visit: [www.dacelections.com](http://www.dacelections.com).

### Voting Offenses

Voters are obligated to report voting offenses to the City Clerk or the District

Attorney.

Voting offenses are:

- Any form of campaigning within 100 ft. of a building containing a polling place.
- Using, possessing, or carrying alcoholic beverages within 200 feet of a polling place.
- False voting, such as, voting or offering to vote although not qualified, voting in another's name, voting more than once during a single election, or assisting another person in committing a voting offense.
- Blocking the entrance to the voting location.
- Creating disorder or disruption at the polling place.

### ELECTION DAY

On Tuesday, November 3, the voting

convenience centers will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

To find the extensive list of Voting Convenience Centers, go to the Doña Ana County Bureau of Elections website and click Elections, Voting, Where Do I Vote, [www.donaanacounty.org/elections/vcc#election](http://www.donaanacounty.org/elections/vcc#election).

There will be someone who speaks Spanish at each of the polling places and at the County Clerk's Office.

### PROVISIONAL VOTING

If you go to vote and the election workers cannot locate your information, election workers will offer you a provisional ballot.

The provisional voting process is slightly different than normal, but if you

are verified to be a qualified voter, your vote will count the same.

Instead of placing the ballot into a machine to be read you will place it into a sealed envelope. You will need to fill out your information and sign the envelope.

These sealed provisional ballots will be returned to the County Clerk's office on election night for review. Once the provisional ballots have been reviewed, they will be taken to the canvassing board to be counted or rejected depending on the qualifications of the voter.

**To see more voter information and questions/answers from your responding candidates, go to [Vote411.org](http://Vote411.org) and enter your address. You might also find responses from candidates who did not respond in time for the printed editions.**

## UNITED STATES SENATORS AND REPRESENTATIVES

### QUESTIONS FOR THE CANDIDATES FOR UNITED STATES SENATOR AND UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE

(500 characters each)

**1. Should Congress act to mitigate the effects of climate change? If so, how? If not, why not?**

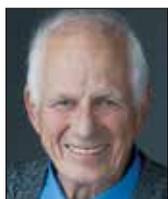
**2. What actions, if any, should Congress take regarding the accessibility, affordability, and quality of health care?**

**3. What should the role of the federal government be in planning for public health emergencies? Please explain.**

**4. What actions, if any, should Congress take regarding our immigration system?**

**5. Is voter suppression an issue that needs to be addressed by Congress? Please explain**

**6. What actions, if any, should be taken to address the allegations of systemic racial injustice?**



#### United States Senator Bob Walsh LIBERTARIAN Candidate

1. Congress should defund government departments that fail to report emissions produced and measures taken to reduce emissions. Individuals may take whatever voluntary measures they deem appropriate. Congress

should not impose burdens on the private sector to mitigate uncertain effects that are decades away. Instead, Congress should let our economy grow while the technology advances.

2. Libertarians favor a free market. We should be free to determine our level of health insurance, our level of health care, our providers, our medicines and treatments, and our end-of-life choices. We should be free to purchase insurance and care across state lines.

A free market would offer many choices,

including competing affordable options with only catastrophic insurance and without the latest interventions. Independent individuals and groups would rate quality.

3. The current pandemic has reminded us that central planning does not work. Private companies are happy to compete for the fastest response to a new epidemic, encouraged by the potential financial rewards. The government should get out of the way, not impede developments the way the CDC and the FDA have done during the current pandemic.

4. Although we should encourage immigration as a benefit to our economy, the more important considerations are human rights. Political freedom and escape from tyranny demand that individuals not be unreasonably constrained by government in the crossing of political boundaries. Economic freedom demands the unrestricted movement of human as well as financial capital across national borders.

5. Voting rights are protected under Amendments IV, XV, XIX,

and XXIV. Congress must provide adequate funding to the Justice Department to investigate and prosecute any infringement of these rights.

6. Police department should improve their ability to detect selective law enforcement before it becomes a systemic problem. The doctrine of qualified immunity should be altered or abolished.

Most jurisdictions have too many trivial laws. All laws should have an expiration date.



#### United States Senator Mark V Ronchetti REPUBLICAN Candidate

1. While climate change should be addressed, I disagree with those who believe that dismantling our economy is the answer. I strongly oppose the Green New Deal that my opponent is co-sponsoring. The "Green New Deal" would destroy our economy, while the world's largest polluters - India

& China - sit idly by. The approach of proponents of the Green New Deal simply won't work. I support an innovative approach relying on natural gas, carbon capture & emerging technologies to address climate change.

2. Increasing and improving access to healthcare is possible by enacting policies that lower costs while protecting quality and choice. I oppose government-run Medicare for All. I will always protect coverage for those who have pre-existing conditions. In a state like New Mexico, wider availability of telemedicine is critical to accomplishing this goal. Every American should be able to pick the healthcare plan and doctor they want, not one the government picks for them.

3. The federal government should have a national response ready for a variety of public health emergencies. As we've seen with COVID-19, it is essential for the government to have the ability to identify, monitor, and eventually control health threats. Additionally, the federal government should

maintain necessary public health resources in a national stockpile to be prepared to scale up response to any health threat, rapidly.

4. I oppose amnesty & support efforts to secure the border with physical barriers, technology & an increase in border patrol agents. Illegal drugs pouring over our border is hurting everyone & this drug trade fuels much of our crime epidemic. I oppose sanctuary city laws that allow illegal immigrants who commit crimes to remain in the country. Legal immigration made this country great and we need clear immigration laws where those seeking the American dream can do so lawfully.

5. Congress should always be monitoring election security and defending free and fair elections. It is important that every American citizen has the ability to vote so their voice can be heard and shape their government. I support early voting, absentee mail voting, and satellite voting locations. Unlike my opponent, I support voter ID laws to

prevent voter fraud.

6. I support common-sense reforms and we have to weed out bad apples. I believe most police officers are good people and I strongly oppose defunding the police. I support Sen. Tim Scott's bill which would ban no-knock warrants, chokeholds, and require body cameras. Additionally, our Albuquerque police officers have already adopted many reforms to better protect the rights and safety for all citizens, and I am proud to be endorsed by the Albuquerque Police Officers Association.



### **United States Senator Ben R Lujan DEMOCRATIC Candidate**

1. We cannot wait another generation to act on the climate crisis. In Congress, I introduced the Clean Energy Standard Act to transition electrical utilities to 100% clean energy in the 2050s and authored the IMPACT For Energy Act to expand investments in organizations working to protect our public lands and strengthen regulations to protect our air and water. By making smart investments in clean energy now, we can create good-paying jobs and secure the needed changes to protect our environment.

2. Health care is a human right and that's why I have fought to expand health care throughout my career. I am the author of the State Public Option Act, which allows people to buy into their state's Medicaid programs. In Congress,

I voted for legislation to drive down prescription drug prices and end surprise medical billing, all while fighting for resources to improve the quality and accessibility of health care for rural New Mexicans.

3. This pandemic has demonstrated that the federal government must have the ability to effectively respond to public health emergencies. A crisis like COVID-19 requires a comprehensive federal response but instead we've seen a lack of leadership from the president, which has resulted in massive losses of life. The federal government should develop and prepare to implement plans to control the spread of outbreaks in coordination with all 50 states and replenish stockpiles of medical equipment.

4. Our immigration system is fundamentally broken. Congress needs to pass comprehensive immigration reform - one that includes a pathway to citizenship - protect the DREAMers, and bring humanity back to our immigration policies. We must take immediate action to ensure that the rights of migrants and refugees are protected by ending the family separation and the Remain in Mexico policies implemented by the Trump administration.

5. Voter suppression must absolutely be addressed by Congress, which has an obligation to protect the rights of the American people. Voter suppression is a threat to our democracy. In Congress I supported the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act to restore the Voting Rights Act that was struck down by the Supreme Court. I also introduced the Native

American Voting Rights Act, to create safeguards for Native American voters to eliminate obstacles to the ballot box faced by Native American voters

6. While recent events have shown a light on this, systemic racial injustice is a pervasive issue in our country. In order to address the root causes of this injustice, we must acknowledge that this racism is real and get to work. I encourage individuals to get involved and volunteer with organizations that are working tirelessly to combat racism. We must also speak out against racism, make our voices heard, and most importantly get out and vote to elect leaders who will fight to make our country

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### **UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVES**

Candidates must be at least 25 years old, a United States citizen of seven years, and must be an inhabitant of New Mexico. The United States House of Representatives has 435 members of which New Mexico is entitled to three. Two-year term.



### **U.S. Representative Yvette Herrell REPUBLICAN Candidate**

1. The proposals in front of Congress today, including the dangerous and out-of-touch "Green New Deal" are not acceptable solutions. New Mexico's farmers, ranchers, and extraction industries have been good stewards of the

land, because the land is their livelihood. We must continue to harness and invest in the technology and innovation that has resulted in reduced emissions - not punishing or regulating our job creators to death.

2. We need to reduce the cost of healthcare by embracing free market solutions that allow providers to compete for our business. When they compete, the cost comes down, quality increases, and patients win. Transparency is another key to ensuring we reduce the actual cost of treatments and procedures. Patients and their families should see what they are being charged for and be able to negotiate cheaper prices - to hold providers accountable.

3. In the preamble of the Constitution, it is outlined that our government needs to "provide for the common defense, promote the general Welfare". I believe that preparing our nation for public health emergencies and natural disasters is a core purpose of our federal government. We should always be seeking innovative practices to keep Americans safe and providing the states ample resources to effectively carry out emergency orders.

4. Congress needs to stop kicking the can down the road and treating our immigration system as a political pawn, because there are real people being affected by the actions of the government. We need to reform the system from the top down, securing the border, providing a long term solution to DACA, and improving the guest worker visa program so American employers and producers can access the labor they need while providing jobs for immigrants that are ready, willing and able to work legally.

5. Congress has a duty to protect each legal and voting age American citizen's right to vote in free and fair elections.

6. Racial injustice, no matter the form it takes, should always be opposed and curbed by our government at every level in America. There is no place for racism in our country.



### **U.S. Representative Xochitl Torres Small DEMOCRATIC Candidate**

1. Climate change has real consequences, many of which we're already experiencing in New Mexico. That's why I voted to re-enter the Paris Climate Agreement and introduced legislation that would improve and update our water infrastructure, and support measures that would increase methane capture. To fight climate change, we need diverse partners to build solutions for responsible energy production, energy conservation, and carbon capture.

2. Now more than ever, we must make our healthcare both affordable and accessible to New Mexicans no matter where they live. That's why I supported the CARES Act to ensure free testing for individuals and provide support to strengthen our healthcare infrastructure. Before the spread of COVID-19, I introduced the Rural MOMs Act to increase access to maternal healthcare for expectant mothers and fought to give Medicare the power to negotiate for lower drug prices.

3. I was proud to work with Republicans, Democrats, and President

Trump to pass the CARES Act. It provided support to rural healthcare and relief to small businesses. Unfortunately--and despite my efforts--it didn't directly support local governments or the essential services they provide. I'll keep pushing for relief, support for local services, and investments to rebuild New Mexico.

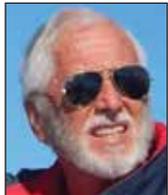
4. Our immigration and border security systems are broken and we need strong, smart and fair solutions to fix them. That's why I voted for HR 6 to provide a pathway to citizenship for DREAMers and helped introduce the Farm Workforce Modernization Act to improve our H2A visa system. A secure border supports vibrant communities through legal trade and immigration, which is why I introduced legislation to stop drug and human trafficking at our ports of entry and voted for more asylum judges.

5. Congress must do its part to ensure that all citizens have the ability to exercise their right to vote and have their voices heard. We should work to ensure that our elections are conducted securely and safely, and that we are eliminating barriers to participation in our democratic process. I'm proud to have voted for The Voting Rights Advancement Act to help ensure that no one is excluded from our most fundamental responsibility as citizens.

6. As New Mexicans, we know our strength is in our diversity. But we also know that we must do more to address systemic racism, which is why I supported the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act. We should be

## CONGRESS CONTINUED FROM 3

working to bring people together, including law enforcement, to build strong communities where different perspectives are recognized and respected as we tackle historic and systemic injustices.



### U.S. Representative Steve Jones DTS Candidate

1. Absolutely! Mitigation can be prevention of

additional pollution and remediation of existing pollution. The first step is to stop politicizing the issue. Second step is to increase retail costs for all hydrocarbon products by a federal tax overlay. Third step is to apply technology to reclaim and remediate. I am not in favor of drastic prevention measures that will create poverty. Fourth step is to sanction countries creating greatest pollution damage.

2. Congress should stop selling out to the American Medical Association and create competition to lower costs. Americans should be entitled to seek

health care in Canada and Mexico. Ultimately, the deteriorating health of Americans will cause a failure to any single pay system. The question should not be who is paying for health care but how to stop the runaway increases in costs of health care. Don't ruin Medicare with inclusion of everyone.

3. First, don't engage in highly partisan gridlock such as impeachment trials during a pandemic. The Dem's and Rep.'s need to take politics out of emergency response. I am sure that the Pandemic has the government's attention but what, where and when

will be the next emergency. It was my understanding that a lot of time and money was being expended on emergency response, if not why not. The Voter and journalists must insist upon guidelines for public health emergencies being non-partisan.

4. It is the sole responsibility of our Federal Government and not a state, county or city. The immigration system of the US has enslaved those who enter our country for the benefit of employers wanting their CHEAP labor. The new plantation mentality. Step 1 pass a National Minimum

Wage of \$15 per hour for workers. Step 2 create a Union of Immigrant Labor "UIL" in which all immigrant workers must enroll. Step 3 enforce economic sanctions against employer and immigrant that violate law.

5. All aspects of voting should be improved using existing technology. There should be a national system used at all levels that register voters, track the eligibility of voters and enable voting in such a way that security will be increased and cost reduced. We should use the Pandemic to provide the motivation to innovate

without disenfranchising.

6. Why take such a myopic view of a much bigger subject. Xenophobia is at the heart of much distrust, fear and hate. To create a "red meat" subject as this only contributes to the division. I have traveled the world over and Xenophobia is universal. Before "political correctness" overwhelmed science, there were sociologists who treated this as a human science. We have been genetically programmed since prehistoric time to fear those who are different from us. Angry people yelling stop.....

## NEW MEXICO STATE LEGISLATIVE OFFICES

### QUESTIONS FOR THE CANDIDATES FOR STATE SENATOR AND STATE REPRESENTATIVE

(500 characters each)

1. Are public schools adequately funded to provide strong learning experiences and adequate infrastructure during this pandemic?
2. What actions, if any, should the State take to mitigate the impact of climate change?
3. Discuss the extent to which the public should have a role in the redistricting process that will occur in 2021.
4. What actions would you support to create more stable revenue streams for State government?
5. What actions do you advocate to improve the accessibility and quality of health care in New Mexico?

### NEW MEXICO STATE SENATOR

#### State Senator District 31 Joseph Cervantes DEMOCRAT

No response received



#### State Senator District 31 John Thomas Roberts REPUBLICAN

No response received

#### State Senator District 34 Darren Murray Kugler DEMOCRAT

1. No. New Mexico is 50th in so many categories - especially regarding our children - that our focus needs to be on feeding all the children of New Mexico during this crisis. The schools should be

providing basic nutrition to students during this pandemic. The Severe economic impacts of this pandemic will be with us through 2021.

2. None. Too late to mitigate those impacts. It is time to focus on adaptation to a very hostile natural environment. We can give our children the skills they will need to have a chance to survive if we choose to.

3. No. (That requires negotiations, the agreement of others and Lots of luck in the legislative jungle. And, that is just the minimum requirements for me to relevantly discuss any part of the Gerrymandering process, a.k.a, redistricting.)

4. Maintain status quo.

5. Improvement is not likely during this pandemic. We will be lucky to keep our rural health care system functioning during this pandemic. Many of those suffering and dying from Covid-19 are health care workers. New Mexico's small towns will continue to have inadequate healthcare

resources - especially, Doctors, Nurses, hospital staff. We should focus on providing medical transportation from rural areas to reach healthcare at regional clinics and hospita



#### State Senator District 34 Ron Griggs REPUBLICAN Candidate

1. When the words/phrases 'adequately funded', 'strong learning experiences' and 'adequate infrastructure' are used in a question it pushes the answer to be no. The Yassie lawsuit said that the State does not 'adequately' fund education but didn't say what that was. In 2019 the State increased education funding by one-half a billion dollars. The pandemic has dramatically changed how we deliver educational services and frankly we don't know yet if funding is

going to the right spots.

2. When people talk climate change in New Mexico they immediately talk about stopping oil and gas production in our state. That industry delivers more than half of our revenues. The industry has increased production while reducing its carbon footprint and will continue to do so if we work together to find reasonable solutions. But as we move forward and push for more and more green energy we need to be aware that green energy does not produce the revenues or the reliable energy New Mexico needs.

3. Re-districting should be important to all of us. This is the first time I will have a role in any decision making. I don't know what role the public has now so I can't really say what should or shouldn't be changed. The members of the legislature are your elected representatives so I would stay in contact with us as the process moves forward.

4. You should have just asked what taxes I think should be raised or

created. I don't support raising taxes but reforming the tax code may involve tweaking/changing. We must be aware of what changing any portion of the tax system has on our citizens and our local governments before we look at higher or newer taxes. Reducing the size of government should still be the first choice. MVD looks like a good candidate - they have been closed for months - maybe there are better ways to do that job.

5. Health care in New Mexico is and will remain a challenge due to the numbers of people who do not live in or near metropolitan areas. We need to develop more primary care practitioners who can serve the needs of our rural and outlying populations. The plan needs to come from our doctors, nurses, chiropractors, and alternative medicine providers and it needs to come soon because scope of practice issues are some of the most delicate and difficult issues the legislature faces.



**State Senator  
District 35  
Crystal R Diamond  
REPUBLICAN Candidate**

1. As a school board member and firsthand witness to a failing state school system, I believe we must do better to provide technology needs, specifically in rural & remote school districts, increase access to social & mental health services, and ensure our teachers are receiving the resources needed in and out of the classroom.

2. State regulations to address climate change in New Mexico have led to greater financial costs and higher energy prices for hard working families. We must continue to diversify our energy supplies while still respecting the ability of working families to afford such sources.

3. Redrawing of legislative districts, as required by federal law following a census, allows for each district to represent equal population. It is important that the public plays an active role in assisting with the boundary process to avoid political gerrymandering and ensure that entire communities are represented without divide.

4. I support innovation from our research universities, national labs, and private sector. We should expand bioscience, advanced technologies, energy production and aerospace by cutting bureaucratic red tape to accelerate start-up companies. I support the Local Economic Development Act and Job Training Incentive

Program that work to advance such industries.

5. Increasing health care program access and affordability, specifically in rural areas, needs to be a top legislative priority. We must address transportation shortages while increasing the use of e-pharmacies and telemedicine. We can address the dwindling numbers of health care providers by incentivizing the completion of medical residencies in rural areas.



**State Senator  
District 35  
Neomi Martinez-Parra  
DEMOCRATIC Candidate**

1. The Martinez administration underfunded Education to the extent that it violated NM's Constitution. Legislators from both parties should do all they can to improve funding for education and, our dismal national ranking. The last two legislative sessions were a start in the right direction, but funding remains inadequate during the pandemic and beyond. I believe the Land Grant Permanent Fund, a rainy-day-only fund, should be tapped. If this pandemic is not a rainy for our state, then what is?

2. NM should not only join the movement toward clean, renewable energy in America; it should become a leader in the movement. The renewable energy mandates recently legislated are an aggressive start toward addressing climate change. The state has to look closely at ways to prepare and train our workforce to transition from jobs reliant on fossil fuels to good paying, clean

energy jobs in the wind and solar industries. Climate change is real. Responsible legislative leadership is long overdue.

3. American Democracy was designed to map legislative districts fairly - on a nonpartisan basis. In recent decades, fairness and non-partisanship dissolved. To ensure that New Mexicans participate equally in the election of their representatives, more transparent redistricting process, controlled by independent commissions, may be a step in the right direction.. New technologies can be used by redistricting commissions to incorporate important social, regional concerns in redistricting decisions

4. We need to diversify revenue to include recreational marijuana and clean energy. Colorado collected over \$300 million in 2019 marijuana tax revenue supporting youth and public health, mental health services and state and local governments. Unencumbered capital outlay and new tax revenues from recreational marijuana and clean energy could help balance the budget without massive universal cuts. Meanwhile, we need to attract new businesses and support tourism, including outdoor and eco- tourism..

5. I would like to see a coalition of municipal, county, state and federal partners to marshal resources and invest in rural healthcare facilities and services throughout the district. This includes ensuring that the New Mexico rural healthcare extension is fully funded and supported. Although Capital Outlay coffers may become constrained in these next few economically challenging years, I will fight to secure funding for bricks and mortar projects

involving regional rural health care facilities.

**State Senator  
District 36  
Kimberly A Skaggs  
REPUBLICAN Candidate**

No response received



**State Senator  
District 36  
Jeff Steinborn  
DEMOCRATIC Candidate**

1. While we have made progress to provide greater resources to help students succeed and support teachers, more needs to be done. Specifically during this pandemic we have a large digital divide denying too many students access to online schooling. Schools also need additional resources to help students, teachers, and staff stay safe while in their facility. Given the financial constraints of the state to provide these resources the federal government needs to steps up with additional assistance.

2. New Mexico has made great strides to reduce our carbon emissions and we should accelerate this work. Specifically I have introduced legislation to give cities, counties and tribes the ability to purchase energy from whomever they would like rather than the one option we are forced to buy from. This model known as local choice energy would help further reduce our carbon footprint while providing lower cost energy options for New Mexicans.

3. Its time for NM to create an independent redistricting commission to create more equitable and effective legislative

districts. The current redistricting system allows the legislature to create its own district boundaries to protect political futures rather than group voters and citizens together in a way that maximizes community representation. Given that we do not have this system in place now I support efforts underway to create a citizen initiative to assist the legislature in this process.

4. New Mexico has reduced its revenue through the years by giving special treatment to the wealthy and corporate special interests. We need to level the playing field of how we treat all citizens and make sure we can provide the level of services needed to create a more prosperous state.

5. We are seeing all too clearly our collective need for dependable and portable health care. The state and federal government should work to make health coverage available to all citizens and enact strategies to lower costs. To accomplish this we need to provide a "public option" insurance choice, reduce costs paid out to insurance companies and the pharmaceutical industry, require coverage for preventative health services, and increase the provider base of medical professionals.



**State Senator  
District 37  
David W Gallus  
REPUBLICAN Candidate**

1. New Mexico Public High School dropout rate of 25 to 30% and spends \$10,000 to \$16,000 per year per student. A local private

school, Mesilla Valley Christian School, has had every student graduate High School in 40 years of operation. And the cost is only \$5,000 per student. New Mexico is ranked worst in the Nation, Pre-K through 12th grade. President Trump and Secretary of Education DeVos is proposing a tax credit voucher program for School Choice. Let the parents decide, not govt. or unions.

2. Man made climate change is a hoax. The doom day promoters say we have too much CO2. That is a lie, we have too little CO2. Our plants are starving for CO2. Another lie: CO2 increases the temperature of the planet. Wrong...the rise in ocean water temperature increases the amount of CO2 in the atmosphere. The Sun cyclically changes the temperature of the planet and we are coming out of a Little Ice Age where temperatures will rise slightly. Follow the True Science.

3. Redistricting should be geographical and not political. It should follow the division of the population along straight lines and simple shapes almost perfectly. The public should be fully informed as to the divisions before it is made permanent, so there is discussion among the people.

4. New Mexico is the third richest State in the Union for Natural Resources and Minerals. Unleash the Natural Resources, including coal, oil, gas and minerals. When there is a boom in the oil and gas industry, create a rainy-day-fund to help during the lean times. Our past Legislature not only spent all of the surplus money from the boom, but raised taxes as well. When you overspend,

## LEGISLATIVE CONTINUED FROM 5

the only way to balance the budget is to tax the people. It is not a matter of lack of money, it is mismanagement.

5. Allow the free market of competition to offer the best quality of health care for the best price. Get government out of the health care business and allow people to choose their providers.

The VA is a good example of how the government screwed up that health care system; our Veterans suffered terribly. They are our Heroes.



### **State Senator District 37 William P Soules DEMOCRATIC Candidate**

1. No. We continue to underfund our schools as we have for years. We started to make progress on reversing that trend during the 60 day session but then the COVID 19 hit and we pulled back on that investment during the special session that was used to fix the budget hole caused by the virus. We need to protect education funding in the upcoming session and make additional investments in the State's future by funding our schools completely.

2. Climate change is real and largely caused by man. We need to rapidly move to a more sustainable energy mix of solar, wind, and geothermal. Luckily, NM has large untapped resources in these areas. The State can incentivize the transitions, and plans

laws and regulations that move us to a cleaner future.

3. I believe we should have an independent redistributing Committee to make recommendations for redistributing. This should involve public hearings and transparency. The process will always be political but districts should be drawn that represent the people who live there and not the office holders or wishes of the political parties.

4. NM needs to diversify away from fossil fuels and toward sustainable energy. Healthy communities also promote stable revenue and thus investments in our people. We should increase investments in high education and entrepreneurs that wish to establish companies in the state. We should also invest in early childhood programs as long term strategies that support stability.

5. I am a supporter of the efforts to set up the NM Health Plan (I can't think of the term right now.). We have allocated money to study the plan and savings and now need to act on the results.



### **State Senator District 38 Carrie Hamblen DEMOCRATIC Candidate**

1. No, they are not. We are seeing rural communities struggle with the lack of technological infrastructure, having access to computers, and basic education on how to navigate remote learning. Plus, teachers are working more hours

than they typically do to ensure their students have the best possible learning experience while staying at home. We need to provide more funding for technology, teacher support, and classroom resources.

2. I believe we need to support more community solar projects, tax incentives for electric cars, charging stations along our major highways, more effective public transportation, creative ways to harness methane gas, job training for oil and gas workers displaced by the reduction of refineries, and support the renewable energy industry with manufacturing, and affordable solar projects for low income housing initiatives.

3. We have a potential challenge with the getting accurate numbers from the census and that will impact redistricting. However, understanding that many districts in the state have been gerrymandered, we need to involve the public in the redistricting process as it will effect elections, policy, and available resources for the next 10 years. There also needs to be a public education campaign to inform constituents about the role of redistricting and to ensure appropriate representation.

4. The Gross Receipts Tax needs to be modified. It creates an extra layer of taxation for sellers, sole proprietors, and contractors. Although it provides a stable revenue for the state, we need to develop alternative ways to supplement that revenue without punishing our local businesses. We should reconsider reform to our corporate taxes, develop a more efficiently structure tax rate, and embrace

other forms of revenue generation.

5. There are a number of things we need to do, as a state, to improve our health care options. First, increase transportation from the rural parts of the county so residents can have access to medical appointments. And, as we are seeing, telehealth options have become the norm for doctors' visits and yet there are people in our community who don't have access to those resources or know how to use them. We need to provide education and training to those households that have those limitations.



### **State Senator District 38 Charles Richard Wendler REPUBLICAN Candidate**

1. The short answer is no. The pandemic has created a different set of classroom parameters. Technology is critical to providing teacher-student communication. Not all students have the necessary access or means to interface with instruction. Students of rural schools are more adversely impacted.

Additionally, teachers may not have adequate training. Having been in the public school business for 37 years as teacher and administrator, I feel more experienced than some on this issue.

2. This issue has been controversial for quite some time. Predictions have yet to be fully realized. As with any possible calamity, due diligence needs to be

observed. Yes, precautions can be taken, but so with common-sense measures.

3. The public should take an active role in the redistricting process. It is about political control, and safe-guarding the minority voices. People of various communities can unite to connect with their legislators and voice their concerns that they will continue to be fairly represented. Not all communities have the same issues. As individuals, remain engaged with what is transpiring with the redrawing of political maps. Will it be fair? Or, will your voice be diluted?

4. Timber, mining and small businesses had been available in the past to appreciable degrees -- agriculture provides 13% of revenue. But these and other sectors have been adversely impacted by government regulations mitigating their financial contributions. Government activity could, instead, focus on fostering a climate of entrepreneurship: risk takers create jobs. Government action could also encourage manufacturing, which is the foundation for a strong economy.

5. As a former biology teacher, I always felt we do not spend adequate time emphasizing health, nutrition and maintenance of our bodies, especially with our young. Education is the key. But there needs to be a strong connect to what is learned and what we practice. The human structure is amazing and given the right care it will function, for the most part, as designed, barring genetic or accidental factors. Resources are available as support: medicaid, non-profits, foundations and others.

## NEW MEXICO STATE REPRESENTATIVE



### **State Representative District 33 Micaela Lara Cadena DEMOCRATIC Candidate**

1. Schools weren't adequately funded before COVID, and disparities in educational equity have worsened over this year. Impact Aid must be returned fairly to some of our most high need students, while we increase funding overall so that more students can be successful, online or in-person. As a working mom with kids doing virtual learning, I know how important it is to improve internet access across all our communities. For students to succeed, their capacity to connect into a classroom is a must.

2. We must continue to address climate change by increasing the efficiency of energy consumption in our state. Overall, I believe in fostering responsible and responsive partnerships with the oil & gas industry, as we reduce our reliance on the general fund revenues the industry generates for our state. Distinctly, we must also keep moving towards appropriate oversight and regulations to protect the health and well-being of our environment and New Mexicans impacted by our extractive industries.

3. The 2021 redistricting process will play out within the most transparent legislative rules and procedures we've had over New Mexico's history. Legislative meetings have

been webcast for several years, and are now archived as well. As always, the public will have capacity to engage through our legislative committee process which allows for public input. Everyday, New Mexicans are invited to express their ideas, concerns and questions to their legislators and members of the body overall.

4. Tax reform is a tangible way to continue building necessary and stable revenue streams for decades to come. While many make big promises about imagined revenue that is never realized, there is no band-aid industry or money stream that is going to bring in all the dollars we need. Coming out of COVID, it's more crucial than ever to be investing in small and local businesses; they've always been the backbone of job creation, economic development and GRT dollars across our communities.

5. We must fully fund NM's Medicaid program in the face of revenue shortfalls, especially as the number of Medicaid eligible New Mexicans has increased during COVID. In the long run, rising healthcare costs remain a real worry for too many of our families. This crisis has bared glaring inadequacies in our healthcare system, particularly for rural and frontier communities. We need to re-imagine these systems so that one day all New Mexicans may receive the care they need, when they need it.



**State Representative  
District 33  
Beth E Miller  
REPUBLICAN Candidate**

1. COVID-19 has revealed inequities among schools and students, particularly related to technology. Students in geographically isolated areas may not have internet or do not have computers. I believe infrastructure investments at the district and state levels are necessary. Bold action is needed now! Gratitude is due to administrators and teachers who faced these logistical challenges and stepped up to meet the needs of all children. Doing this, our children will be the winners in this crisis! security. NM is one of 13 states doing this. This keeps retired people from looking at NM to call home. -gas and solar industries to power up America. A bold vision and a shared stewardship of our natural and renewable resources is important now and in the future.

2. Clean air and water in a livable environment is possible. I propose advanced technology R&D that would combine green resources with natural oil and gas production. This will create jobs, revenue, and a sustainable future for New Mexico. Our nation needs New Mexico's oil and gas as well as wind, bio-gas and solar industries to power up America. A bold vision and a shared stewardship of our natural and renewable resources is important now and in the future.

3. Citizens of NM are the key stakeholders in this process and it must be transparent. I propose the following guide lines: An Independent backup commission draws the lines in the event that the state legislature cannot approve a plan. No commission member can hold office in the legislature for four years after redistricting. This is to guard against gerrymandering, a way

that governing parties try to keep themselves in power by manipulating the political map in their favor.

4. I would support fiscal responsibility, curb government overspending, overhaul the Gross Receipt Tax, and exempt taxing retiree's social security. Attracting new retirees and keeping existing ones here, creates additional revenue. Next, attract businesses from agriculture to technology, with a "path of opportunity" to locate in NM. This translates into jobs. Diversifying our economy will create stability and we must demonstrate that we have a strong, well trained workforce to support businesses.

5. Four words summarize the Hippocratic Oath, the guiding light of medicine: "The patient comes first." For doctors to accomplish this, quality health care is needed. Obstacles limit health care when people lack affordable insurance and with an outdated Medicare program. Steps to improve health care: Address physician shortages; use cost-effective Telehealth and remote patient monitoring; common-sense medical liability reforms; better NM Medicaid reimbursement.

**State Representative  
District 34  
Dawn E. Ladd  
REPUBLICAN Candidate  
No response received**



**State Representative  
District 34  
Raymundo Lara  
DEMOCRATIC Candidate**

1. No, they aren't

adequately funded during non-pandemic times, much less during a pandemic. The learning experience is negatively impacted because our underpaid teachers are not able to work with their students in a face to face environment. As for infrastructure, the schools have the infrastructure in place for learning, what is lacking is infrastructure in the community at large, and for that I would not hold the schools accountable.

2. Greater investment in green energy is needed to mitigate the impact, however we must also have the oil and gas industry involved in the process as well. By including all the players in the energy business, we will have a clearer picture as to what is needed to begin to address the issue of climate change. New Mexico has an abundance of sunshine, we must also consider utilizing this natural resource as a potential revenue source by considering either selling or taxing green energy that leaves NM.

3. To my knowledge, the public does have input in redistricting. If I recall correctly, meetings are held throughout the state for that sole purpose. I would suggest that community based groups and non profits also become involved in the process so that they may reach out to the public to encourage them to participate even further.

4. We need to look at what is currently working and we need to focus on investing in that. Trade and industry are still working and manufacturing, trucking is still delivering and packages are still being delivered to our homes. However, I am proud

to say that border trade and commerce is still going strong and growing despite the many setbacks. Its not about creating, its about supporting and advocating for what we already have.

5. We need to support New Mexico medical schools, offer incentives to doctors to stay in NM, and build up a more robust Telehealth network with reliable connectivity.



**State Representative  
District 35  
Angelica Rubio  
DEMOCRATIC Candidate**

1. I do not believe that the funding has been adequately distributed to address racial and economic inequities. Every public school serves very different students, and requires more than just money, but recognizing that there are historical issues that we must address, to try to get our education system as close to perfect as possible. Two years ago, Yazzie/Martinez vs State of New Mexico made this argument and the New Mexico Supreme court agreed. I support that case.

2. Last year, I helped pass the DWS Work Study, which just released results, that has provided us with policy solutions that will get us closer to not only addressing climate change, but doing so in a way that other states have not done entirely right. Particularly on how we support workers in this transition, specifically native and indigenous communities, and Latinx communities who are primarily

bilingual. Broadband is a big deal and we must invest in that as well to address this transition.

3. The public should very much be involved in the redistricting process in New Mexico. This should not just be something that the legislature is responsible for. I would support an independent committee, made up of a variety of people.

4. New Mexico is very heavily reliant and dependent on the oil and gas industry. I am 100% in support of diversifying away from extractive industry, not just from an economic development and revenue standpoint, but from an environmental standpoint as well. However, to do this would require a multigenerational plan--with political will from our leaders, to look beyond just a budget year, but to look further ahead.

5. I am not an expert in healthcare and access to it, but I believe in policies that provide for an improvement to this system--that is done so from an equitable and intersectional lens. The Health Security Act is a piece of policy that I have supported over the course of the last four years of my legislative career. This is one of the many that I will support my colleagues who are championing these issues.



**State Representative  
District 35  
Richelle A Ponder  
REPUBLICAN Candidate**

1. Students and teachers throughout New Mexico

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## LEGISLATIVE

CONTINUED FROM 7

need to go back to school. Our students are already at the the bottom of the list for education and are now falling even further behind. Parents should have the opportunity to choose how and where they want to educate their children. More money needs to be spent in the classroom and less money on high administrative salaries.

2. I think the state of New Mexico has plenty of work to do cleaning up our own backyard without trying to address the global climate change issue.

3. Public non-partisan input should be part of the process. All meetings should be opened to the public.

4. The most important thing to do is open all of the businesses in the state. With businesses closed in New Mexico we have a very limited revenue stream. Factories and businesses are leaving the state in droves. Making New Mexico more business friendly will improve our revenue. Supporting the oil and gas industry in New Mexico is important as well. Supporting and protecting the businesses that fund our state is vital.

5. I support lowering the ceiling for malpractice claims. Quality doctors are leaving New Mexico to practice in states where malpractice insurance is more affordable. With fewer doctors quality health care is farther out of reach for everyone in New Mexico.

### **State Representative District 36 Brandi L. Polanco REPUBLICAN Candidate**

No response received



### **State Representative District 36 Nathan P. Small DEMOCRATIC Candidate**

1. As educators, families, and communities prepare for the return of in person classes, I strongly support funding for Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), testing, enhanced transportation and meal services along with other safety considerations. Additional support for expanded technology needs along with these safety concerns continues to stress public school budgets. Much of this funding is currently in state coffers following the federal CARES Act, but it will not last indefinitely.

2. Mitigating climate change is vital for all New Mexicans. I have led legislation ensuring we get carbon free electricity and to expand we expand electrical transmission infrastructure. I led the Healthy Soils Act for greater soil productivity and carbon capture. I have led legislation safeguarding freshwater, and am excited to continue working to safeguard and expand our potable water supplies. We must work across all of these areas, with a strong focus on expanding economic opportunity.

3. Ensuring fair representation is fundamental to democracy. Encouraging robust public participation in the 2021 redistricting process is something I strongly support.

4. We should expand existing industries, including value added agriculture, energy,

tourism, and international trade. Applying innovation in water technology and management, leading advances in energy management and hydrogen powered energy and applications, and focusing on education and infrastructure upgrades--including broadband connectivity--will support sustainable budgets and expanded economic opportunity.

5. We struggle with healthcare affordability and accessibility. We have taken some important steps to increase provider rate reimbursements, support healthcare professionals who finish their education and begin their careers in rural New Mexico, and prohibit the practice of surprise billing and denying insurance coverage to people with preexisting conditions. Maximizing New Mexico's investment of federal Medicaid funding is another way to build a stronger rural healthcare delivery system.



### **State Representative District 37 Joanne J. Ferrary DEMOCRATIC Candidate**

1. Support funding for education during the pandemic provided internet software and platforms, and computers for students and some internet capabilities, but there still is a need for more teacher support, curriculum development for online teaching and tutors for students. Many students still don't have internet capabilities or enough bandwidth to stay online for extended periods

of time. Investment in providing this infrastructure throughout the state is critical.

2. I believe there should be a moratorium on fracking. There are many wells that have been abandoned or stranded unnecessarily. We have a great amount of methane pollution in the SE and NW corners of our state that could be mitigated by reducing flaring, venting and leaking of gas lines, wasting valuable resources that need to be captured. Stripper wells leak oil into our land. We need to encourage clean energy development for community solar, wind and geo-thermal. Closing coal mines has helped.

3. I endorse the idea of a non-partisan Committee with representation from both parties and without elected officials being involved, so that people are deciding who they elect, not elected deciding who they want as voters. There are already plans underway to develop a process that would be fair and just, which includes public input.

4. Repealing the Richardson Income tax cuts will help to restore the revenue once counted on. We should reform our taxing priorities, legalize marijuana and eliminate inefficient tax credits in order to stabilize and balance the income revenue needed for our state. The Legislature should reform our tax base and remove previous administration's tax cuts. Legalizing and taxing cannabis sales and capturing flared or vented natural gas would bring in substantial revenue.

5. As a member and Vice Chair of the House Health and Human Services Committee since my election in 2016, I have

worked on many issues to improve health care in our State. I believe that all of these efforts have been building to support the Health Security Act that someday will provide a State Health Care system at lower costs and better care for all New Mexicans. The financial reports thus far show potential for great savings. In the next two years an implementation plan needs to be developed.



### **State Representative District 37 Isabella Solis REPUBLICAN Candidate**

1. I have spoken with educators at Gadsden and Las Cruces Public Schools and they have informed me schools are adequately funded for now, but has come at a cost to their surplus funds and teacher pay raises. How long can we endure? is the question. The closing of public schools gave a wake-up call for parents. As many realized, they had more options available to them than they thought possible. We need solutions looking to the future such as home learning and/or school choice.

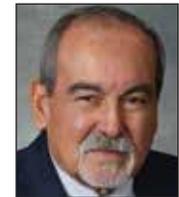
2. Climate change is a hoax. This has been perpetrated by ideology. We are told we are killing our plants by saying we have too much CO2. To address this question we need true data analysis reports from absolutely true and real scientist and climatologists.

3. I would support a fair and transparent process for redistricting. I would like to see an independent redistricting commission. The public should demand that the redistricting

is fair and prevents gerrymandering.

4. Revenue streams are supported by state government. We have twice as many government employees per population as Texas instead of allowing private businesses to come in to our state. This will bring in revenue because they have to pay taxes and people pay taxes. We need free enterprise and get the government out of the way. We need to be business friendly.

5. Government must get out of the Medical Industry. New Mexicans have no choice as to who they can go to as a doctor. When you have free market competition you can get the best product for your money. The free market will improve the accessibility and quality of health care to all New Mexicans.



### **State Representative District 39 Rodolpho S. Martinez DEMOCRATIC Candidate**

1. The Public Education Department received 3.4 billion dollars to provide funds for the school districts and charter schools across New Mexico. With the challenges facing our school districts, the need for teachers and students to maintain social distancing- the funding provided appears to not be sufficient to meet student and teacher needs. We also must meet the requirements of the Martinez/Yazzie lawsuit. In person classes should begin when determined safe.

2. New Mexico is one of the leading states in the country in the solar and wind energy arena. Legislation, introduced



and passed in the previous sessions that requires utility companies to produce power using solar, wind or other alternative sources of at least 20 to 25% are a good start as well as legislation requiring the shutdown of coal powered power plants within the next coming years. New Mexico should be the leader in this arena.

3. I support an independent nonpartisan group to develop redistricting maps and uphold criteria of the Voting Rights Act. I also feel strongly that the public plays a role in the process through shared information and input.

4. We must invest in our educational systems to create opportunities for our youth. Having a well-educated qualified workforce will attract industries to New Mexico. Investing in value-added agricultural programs that will aid the farm and ranch industry. Prior to Covid 19 the gas and oil industry provided 44% of the general fund revenue for the state. These revenues are used to fund our educational system.

5. As a member of the House Appropriations

and Finance Committee we ensure that funding is appropriated to the Human Services Department and the Department of Health. I support the growth of primary care residency programs to grow our own physician base. I also support funding for the DD Waiver to provide services for individuals with needs. These programs allow for better access to healthcare for all New Mexicans. I support the Health Security Act.

### **State Representative District 39**

**Luis M Terrazas**  
**REPUBLICAN Candidate**  
No response received

### **State Representative District 52**

**John Foreman**  
**REPUBLICAN Candidate**  
No response received



**State Representative District 52**  
**Doreen Yvonne Gallegos**  
**DEMOCRATIC Candidate**

1. We need to continue to increase funding

for K-12 public school education, and increase funding and demand for early childhood programs like PreK, childcare, and home visitation. I sponsored and helped to pass a nation-leading Early Childhood Fund Endowment, with an initial \$300 million investment. This Fund will provide millions of dollars for early childhood programs in perpetuity. These are smart investments and create better outcomes and societal costs later in life.

2. I strongly supported the Energy Transition Act, which catapulted New Mexico into one of the country's leaders in renewable energy. We must take aggressive action to increase solar and wind energy, and the jobs they bring, to our state as we transition our economy.

3. The public should be very involved in redistricting in 2021. I hope to be a member of the interim committee that travels all over New Mexico hearing from our citizens and local government officials. It's important that the Legislature go to the rural communities of interest to see what areas should be

brought together to ensure fair representation.

4. We need better paying jobs and a more diverse economy in southern New Mexico and throughout our state. We are starting on that path with renewable energy, local foods and agriculture, eco-tourism, film, and much more. Tourism is so important to our State--we must find ways to enhance the tourism experience.

5. We must increase affordability and accessibility of prescription drugs, especially for senior citizens and those with chronic diseases. Last year, I supported legislation to purchase prescription drugs in bulk from Canada. This law was a great first step. We must also recruit more primary care physicians to New Mexico because preventative medicine improves health outcomes and saves dollars. I also sponsored and passed legislation that provides more dental healthcare in rural areas.

**State Representative District 53**  
**Willie D Madrid**  
**DEMOCRATIC Candidate**  
No response received

### **State Representative District 53** **Ricky L Little** **REPUBLICAN Candidate**

1. Our state spends more per child than any others state adjacent to our borders and they have higher educational result, it is not the money. The whole system needs to be changed to Career Technical Education, life skills and collage prep education. Covid-19 has caused problems that our poor infrastructure and money can not fix this year. Science and the medical professionals tell us it is time to send our children back the classroom.

2. Climate has been changing since the beginning of time, we should respect it and research the changes. Science has not concluded that man is responsible and created the climate changes that are present. Renewable energies are unreliable and have their own environmental issues and must be supported by fossil fuels.

3. There should be committee meetings in the legislature when the process is going on so the public can give input. Gerrymandering has

always been an issue.

4. First, create a rainy day fund to compensate for the oil and gas boom and busts cycle. Downsize bloated government and privatize many government services which would help relieve the retirement fund and give us better services. Make all business incentives and tax breaks the same for all. We should not be choosing one business over another.

5. Government healthcare does not work, just look at the care our veterans have received. First, do not limit the number of insurance companies that work in the state or across the United States. Second, let free market reign. Competition in capitalism would regulate and keep prices affordable. Third, limit doctor malpractice insurance settlements because the customers pay for them, not the doctor. Lastly, have some government oversight.



## **NEW MEXICO STATE JUDICIAL OFFICES**

Judicial vacancies are filled through appointment by the Governor from a list of nominees submitted by a judicial nominating committee. At the next regular election the judicial position is filled in a partisan election in which the appointed judge must participate and win the most votes to retain the seat. Judges serve for terms of a set number of years, after which they must win a 57% "yes" vote in retention elections to keep their seats.

### **JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT- PARTISAN**

Serves as one of five justices on the highest court in New Mexico. It is the court of last resort and has supervisory control over all lesser courts and attorneys licensed in the state. Required to hear appeals from the Public Regulation Commission, election challenges and criminal cases when a defendant is sentenced to the death penalty or life imprisonment. Has discretionary

authority to review rulings of the Court of Appeals and questions of law certified to it by the Court of Appeals or federal court. Must be 35 years old, have practiced law for 10 years, and have resided in New Mexico for the last three years. Elected statewide for eight-year term.

### **JUDGE OF THE COURT OF APPEALS**

Serves as one of ten judges on the intermediate court between the district courts and the Supreme Court. Judges sit in panels of three. Court reviews appeals in all cases, except criminal cases involving sentences of death or life imprisonment, appeals from the Public Regulation Commission, and cases involving habeas corpus. Must be 35 years old, have practiced law for 10 years, and have resided in New Mexico for the last three years. Elected statewide for eight-year term.

### **QUESTIONS FOR CANDIDATES FOR JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT AND JUDGE OF THE COURT OF APPEALS** (500 characters each)

**1. How have your training, professional experience and interests prepared you to serve on the court?**

**2. Do you believe that all persons in New Mexico have fair and equal access to legal assistance and the legal system? If not, what reforms do you support? Please explain.**

**3. What changes, if any, would you recommend to the NM Supreme Court practices and why?**

**4. Do you favor nonpartisan elections for the judiciary? Why or why not?**



**Supreme Court Justice (Position 1)  
Ned S Fuller  
REPUBLICAN Candidate**

1. I am a deputy district attorney in San Juan County, NM. I have served as an administrative law judge, district court judge, as the NM Worker's Compensation Director, Acting Cabinet Secretary for the NM General Services Department and overseen the litigation involving the State. I have served in private practice handling a wide variety of civil matters. What most qualifies me to serve however is my philosophy and commitment that a judge must uphold the Constitution and follow the law.

2. Not yet. There are a number of organizations that provide access to legal help. See for example: <https://www.nmbar.org/NmbarDocs/forPublic/LegalServiceProviders.pdf>

I support efforts to streamline the adjudication process through arbitration, mediation, and summary trials. As NM Workers' Compensation Director I worked to make the system accessible to our rural communities through video conferencing, weekly lump sum settlement hearings and online mediation scheduling.

3. Regarding criminal law we can do better in balancing the rights of the accused and the safety of our community. I support pre-trial detention rules that combine dangerousness hearings and preliminary hearings and allow the same rules of

evidence for both. I would make the time constraints consistent with the complexity of the case. Our system is too expensive and there are too many delays. I support alternative dispute resolutions such as arbitration, mediation and summary jury trials.

4. Yes, but I would rather have a system allowing the executive to appoint with retention votes to follow. This approach better meets the goal of an independent judiciary that is also accountable to the public it serves. Whether partisan or non-partisan, elections politicize our judiciary by requiring judges to campaign. We should study whether our justices should be selected one each from five different geographical regions of the State. Currently all five justices come from Santa Fe or ABQ.



**Supreme Court Justice (Position 1)  
Shannon Bacon  
DEMOCRATIC Candidate**

1. I have been serving New Mexico as a judge for over a decade. Prior to my appointment to the New Mexico Supreme Court, I was a district court judge. This experience, trying cases, managing a very large docket and working on the administration of justice gives me a solid foundation for the work of the Supreme Court. I have also dedicated much of my judicial career to equal access to justice. Providing legal services to New Mexican's who cannot afford a lawyer is critical to the legal system.

2. Yes. I believe that all New Mexican's should

have fair and equal access to legal assistance and the legal system. I am an active member of the Access to Justice Commission and was the Co-Chair of the Second Judicial District's Pro Bono Committee. In these roles I have worked on programs providing free legal services to anyone in need and creating systems that make it easier for people to navigate the court system. I continue this work on the Supreme Court.

3. I support changes that allow cases to be timely decided. Often, by the time a case reaches the Supreme Court, years have passed. Ensuring that once the case reaches the Court it moves toward resolution requires a focus on deciding cases and writing opinions. Recently, I proposed procedural changes to our rules that will allow the Court to address cases more quickly. I also support changes that foster open government, such as the Court's recent decision to telecast our oral argument.

4. I do. The judiciary is an independent branch of government that by design is not subject to political winds. Judges are not partisan. Because of the unique role of the judiciary and judges, it would better reflect the courts if judicial elections were nonpartisan.



**Supreme Court Justice (Position 2)  
Kerry J. Morris  
REPUBLICAN Candidate**

1. Having been licensed to practice law for nearly 40 years, I've had the opportunity to represent

thousands of individuals, small businesses, insurance companies, state agencies, and many others. My years of experience have provided me with a broad understanding of a wide variety of areas of legal practice. My years of experience representing people enable me to understand the needs, expectations, and concerns of parties who appear before the court.

2. Yes, I do believe that all persons in New Mexico have fair and equal access to legal assistance and legal system in New Mexico. There are a wide variety of free legal services offered to those of limited means who otherwise would be unable to afford legal representation or have access to the courts. Among the many services available to the poor, in include the public defender's office for qualified criminal defendants and many programs for non-criminal or civil cases.

3. None at the present time.

4. I do not favor nonpartisan elections for the judiciary because I believe that party affiliation is one important factor among many that may be helpful to the public in evaluating judicial candidates.



**Supreme Court Justice (Position 2)  
David K Thomson  
DEMOCRATIC Candidate**

1. My legal career and community involvement have uniquely prepared me for this position. I was vetted by a bi-partisan

judicial nominating commission and extensively interviewed by the Governor, who appointed me to the position. As a sitting Justice, and former trial court judge in the 1st judicial district, my experience proved invaluable in ensuring the NM court system remained open during COVID19. I litigated for the NM Attorney General's Office and am familiar with how to run a court system.

2. In many rural parts of this state there is a legal desert and legal access gap. To close the gap, I support limited licensing of non-lawyers for simple legal matters. I support increases in technological infrastructure to allow filing by email and remote appearances. I believe if a lawyer provides free legal aid, they should receive a reduction in dues or CLE credit. Finally, we need to create a loan forgiveness program for new lawyers that will serve rural areas.

3. Many changes are required because of the pandemic that will serve our system well afterward. For example, courts broadened access to electronic filing for non represented parties. I led an effort to expand digital access. We must continue to make this process easier, especially for rural communities. During these times of social unrest, we must confront and address our role in resolving racial inequality. That is why I started a minority clerkship program to improve diversity in the judiciary.

4. Our system of choosing judges is not perfect. However, voters have the information needed to elect experienced and qualified judges. My experience is well documented. I am the only one in my race who

went through a vigorous vetting process with a bipartisan nominating commission and interview process. Voters can read the opinions or articles on the law I have written. As a trial court judge, I was evaluated by the Judicial Performance Evaluation Commission. Documented verified experience counts.

**JUDGE OF THE COURT OF APPEALS**



**Judge of the Court of Appeals (Position 1)  
Barbara V Johnson  
REPUBLICAN Candidate**

1. I was sworn in as an attorney in October, 1988. I started working immediately in the area of Family Law, which is a very broad area involving the parties' relationships, children, finances, assets, liabilities and at times criminal and other civil matters. Although most of my cases are settled, those that are not are concluded with a trial. If the trial judge decides an issue incorrectly, the next step is to ask the Court of Appeals to change the trial judge's decision, which I have done.

2. No. Access to and justice from our legal system is best obtained with the assistance of an educated, trained, experienced professional - a lawyer. Those that cannot afford a lawyer often represent themselves. We should have more publications available about the various areas of law and more programs making it easier for lawyers to obtain their required credits for representing litigants that cannot afford a lawyer or will represent litigants for a

reduced fee.

3. I understand some of the reasons appellate decisions take years to be issued is the difficulty in keeping the attorney clerks that assist the Judges, the Judiciary is not sufficiently funded to hire, train and keep those attorneys, there are insufficient funds for proper training of new Judges and continuing legal education for more experienced Judges. Those budget matters should be examined within the Court of Appeals and addressed to our legislators, so our Judiciary is an equal branch.

4. No. Judges elected by the citizens keep the judges accountable to the citizens. Committees should not be reviewing applications and making recommendations to the Governor to fill vacancies. Each step of our current process allows for input by citizens. However, our citizens are mostly unaware of any process but an election. The Judiciary is an equal branch of our government. As such, it should be created by the voters it serves - just like to legislative and executive branches.



**Judge of the Court of Appeals (Position 1)**  
**Zach Ives**  
**DEMOCRATIC Candidate**

1. My experience as a judge and a lawyer have prepared me well. Over the past year and a half serving on the Court of Appeals, I have gained a great deal of experience doing the difficult work of an appellate judge. Before Governor Lujan Grisham appointed me, I had 17 years of experience as a litigator, handing appeals in federal and state courts and

a wide variety of cases in trial courts. I also served as a law clerk to Chief Justice Pamela Minzner of the New Mexico Supreme Court.

2. Unfortunately, no. For civil matters, I support the Justice For All Initiative. Its basic goals are to ensure that every person with legal needs can (1) access important components of our system with or without the help of a lawyer and (2) receive appropriate services, such as alternative dispute resolution and representation by a lawyer. For criminal matters, I believe we must adequately fund legal representation for people (defendants and victims) who cannot afford to pay private lawyers.

3. Our court is exploring how to use our limited resources more efficiently because additional funding will be scarce due to the pandemic. For example, I have worked on a pilot project involving potential changes to our calendaring system, which is what we use to determine how difficult each case is and what resources we will need to analyze the case and make a decision. Modifying this system could increase the quality of our decisions and decrease the amount of time it takes to resolve appeals.

4. Yes, I believe nonpartisan elections would benefit New Mexicans by increasing the independence of our judiciary. Ultimately, whether to make this change is a question for our Legislature. In the meantime, voters have a neutral source of information about qualifications: bi-partisan judicial nominating commissions. I participated in this rigorous vetting process, which involves a written application and interview by all

commissioners. The commission recommended me as a qualified candidate.



**Judge of the Court of Appeals (Position 2)**  
**Stephen P. Curtis**  
**LIBERTARIAN (WRITE-IN)**

1. I have practiced law in NM since 1978. During this time I have represented clients in hundreds of cases, including approximately 20 appeals in many different areas of law.

2. I believe all persons in NM have access to legal assistance, although people and entities who have more wealth do have better access. I suggest that the entire legal process should be streamlined and made to be more efficient and, therefore, less costly.

3. I believe we need more Judges on the Court of Appeals so that cases are decided more expeditiously.

4. I do favor non-partisan elections for the judiciary. Party affiliation hinders the process and unnecessarily politicizes the elections. I suggest an open process where anyone who obtains the requisite signatures should be on the ballot.



**Judge of the Court of Appeals (Position 2)**  
**Shammara H Henderson**  
**DEMOCRATIC Candidate**

1. I was vetted and recommended by a bi-partisan commission and appointed by the Governor. My experience includes all

sides of criminal and civil matters as a former federal and state prosecutor and defense lawyer. My work on civil rights, employment law, and personal injury has afforded me a diverse career. As an Assistant US Attorney under the Obama administration and clerk for Supreme Court Justice Charles Daniels, I understand how the important work of the courts impact all New Mexicans.

2. While NM is fortunate that the courts' staff, judges, and attorneys are more diverse than in other states, we do not have a perfect system. While we have many wonderful programs, many New Mexicans are still falling through the gaps and receiving inconsistent sentencing or punishment when not represented by trained attorneys. Equitable resources across all judicial districts and the formation of specialty courts across the state are critical.

3. Making the court more user-friendly for pro se parties is always a challenge. We have been working on technology changes so that those without attorney-representation have easier access to competently move their cases forward. The Court is also working on ensuring more oral arguments during the pandemic through virtual means. And, each judge has been committed to ending backlog and getting the court a stable caseload as compared to historical norms.

4. Integrity and confidence in the election of our judiciary is critical. While judges currently run in partisan elections, we must adhere to a very strict Code of Conduct which prohibits us from being "political" and taking stances on issues. Voters should take great confidence in electing those who went through the bi-partisan nominating

process, which I did. It is a rigorous process to ensure only the most qualified judges are appointed and have been deemed qualified.



**Judge of the Court of Appeals (Position 2)**  
**Gertrude Lee**  
**REPUBLICAN Candidate**

1. For over ten years I have worked as a trial attorney and prosecutor in both State and Tribal court. I worked my way up from an entry-level attorney to a Deputy District Attorney in Gallup where I represented the State in numerous jury trials and filed several appeals. I continue my work as a prosecutor in Farmington. I am also the former Chief Prosecutor of the Navajo Nation where I brought cases before the Tribal Courts, and managed 10 prosecutor offices and several dozen staff.

2. We are living in unprecedented times. As we rely more on technology the issues with access become more apparent and difficult for those in rural communities with unstable housing, limited telephone service, and/or no access to the internet. To this end, I support reforms and projects to improve broadband infrastructure in rural communities to make electronic access more available, thus ensuring that everyone has fair and equal access to the legal system.

3. We have all heard the phrase "justice delayed is justice denied." This is true for parties who wait years for a decision from the Court of Appeals. However, the Court faces a number of challenges, including an increasing docket and

limited resources. I would recommend using available data to help identify where the appellate process can be streamlined.

Streamlining the process should aim to decrease the time period it takes to calendar a case and decrease the time it takes to decide a case.

4. I favor a process of selection based upon merit to be followed by a retention election. The process of selection by merit separates the Judge from partisan politics while ensuring he or she is qualified for the position. I am in favor of retention elections so the people always have a say whether to keep a judge or not.



**Judge of the Court of Appeals (Position 3)**  
**Thomas C Montoya**  
**REPUBLICAN Candidate**

1. I have been qualified to be appointed district judge 3 times by the Judicial Nominating Commission. I have devoted my 39 year career to the field of family law, which covers a very wide variety of all the civil laws which arise in those cases. I have chaired Supreme Court Committees which promulgated statewide rules for family law and domestic violence cases. I have written, lobbied and obtained sponsors for over 30 statutory enactments in family law to address solutions to family law problems.

2. In theory, all persons are equal before the Courts and the law. In practice, many people cannot afford a lawyer, which creates a great disadvantage, even

## JUDICIAL CONTINUED FROM 11

if the opponent also does not have a lawyer. For this reason, the New Mexico Supreme Court should consider mandatory, rather than voluntary, minimum legal services by lawyers to be provided to those who cannot afford a lawyer.

3. The Court of Appeals is a hard working Court, but with a very high caseload and limited resources. To address this problem will require additional personnel and additional funding.

4. I do not favor nonpartisan elections for the judiciary, because the party affiliation of a candidate is a public record in any event, and because the public has a right to know such party affiliation, as one factor in deciding for whom to vote. Nonetheless, in decision making, under the law, a judge may not permit political affiliation to influence the judge's judgment.



### Judge of the Court of Appeals (Position 3) Jane P Yohalem DEMOCRATIC Candidate

1. I have been an appeals lawyer in New Mexico representing people from every corner of the State before our Court of Appeals and Supreme Court. My career began as a civil rights lawyer representing children with disabilities and have represented indigent families in termination of parental rights cases for many years. I have been counsel in over 400 appeals, resulting in more than 100 published decisions advancing the law of New Mexico. I have been found qualified by the Judicial Selection Comm.

2. We are not providing all persons in New Mexico fair and equal access to our legal system. Years ago, based on my briefs and arguments, our Supreme Court interpreted New Mexico's Children's Code to require the State to provide services to every New Mexico family whose children are taken into State custody, regardless of background. We need to better fund our hard-pressed legal services and public defender offices so they can meet the need for quality legal representation.

3. I was recently appointed by the Governor to serve on the Court of Appeals. The number one concern has been the speed of decisions in the last few years. I am pleased to report that the Court has eliminated the backlog. I would like to look at the Court's priority system to be sure it is working as intended to effectively prioritize time-sensitive appeals, including those of incarcerated individuals and appeals which affect children.

4. I believe that New Mexico has a good mix of an initial partisan election followed by a non-contested retention election. A judge must approach each case on its specific facts and apply the law fairly to those facts. At the same time, voters have a right to know whether a judge shares their values and their understanding of the role our courts play in our democracy. It is appropriate to have the initial vetting of judicial candidates be by the voters in a partisan election.

### Judge of the Third Judicial District Court (Division 9) Richard M. Jacquez DEMOCRAT

Unable to contact

## THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT ATTORNEY

### QUESTIONS FOR THE CANDIDATES FOR DISTRICT ATTORNEY

1. What changes to State laws, if any, do you recommend to protect the First Amendment rights of peaceful demonstrators?
2. What further steps would you take to prevent elder abuse in Doña Ana County?
3. Should there be a Veteran's Court established in Doña Ana County? Explain.
4. What further steps should be taken to reduce child abuse in Doña Ana County?



### Third Judicial District Attorney Gerald Milton Byers DEMOCRATIC Candidate

1. I make no recommendation to change State law regarding federal First Amendment rights originating under the United States Constitution. Article II, Section 17 of the New Mexico Constitution provides “.

. . . no law shall be passed to restrain or abridge the liberty of speech . . .”. Our State Constitution has already spoken forcefully concerning the inviolable nature of the right of free speech; and providing an

essential framework within which to address them.

2. Abuse of seniors is an affront to the population of any modern society. Public awareness, involvement, and comprehensive reporting of events to proper authorities lay the foundation for professional investigation(s) which may ultimately result in a civil action or a criminal prosecution. Close working with professional law enforcement investigators facilitates acquisition of admissible evidence to prove an offender's guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

3. Yes. The Third Judicial District Court's Veteran's Treatment Court is established and operational. Dona Ana County is home to many veterans who answered when their country called.

As a U. S. Navy combat veteran, and the son of a U. S. Air Force Vietnam-era veteran; I understand and appreciate the unique challenges veterans encounter with the criminal justice system. I fully support the Veteran's Treatment Court.

4. Child abuse may exist in many different forms and in various environments; but is always abhorrent. The vital work of law enforcement investigations and forensic interviewers is essential. However public input to initiate those processes is critical, and may be life saving. We must increase awareness of the problem, but also the willingness to become involved as one who observes and reports possible child abuse.

## DOÑA ANA COUNTY OFFICES

### DOÑA ANA COUNTY CLERK

#### QUESTIONS FOR THE CANDIDATES FOR DOÑA ANA COUNTY CLERK

(500 characters each)

1. What can the County Clerk's office do to secure and streamline the voting process and make sure that all votes are counted?
2. What do you consider the greatest challenges to the office of the Doña Ana County Clerk?
3. What qualifications do you bring to the office of Doña Ana County Clerk?



### County Clerk Amanda Lopez Askin DEMOCRATIC Candidate

1. New Mexico elections are arguably in the top 5 of election administration in our country. We have paper ballots that are available for auditing, community members as election officials, air-gapped systems in which no tabulator is ever connected to the internet, machine verification, and post election audits that confirm results. Following our election code, ensuring proper staffing and training, while empowering our community with information and access, supports every vote counts in DAC.

2. Ensuring our statutory requirements are met every single day, which not only encompasses elections, but also our Recording & Filing responsibilities. This requires constant oversight and accountability, as well as sufficient staffing. Supporting a work environment in which employees feel valued, supported, and connected are vital to the challenges our office faces. We are doing more work with less staff, so advocacy for additional staff is also vital to our responsibilities.

3. I bring a 21-year career in corporate and governmental organizations. I have a BS, MS, and a PhD from NMSU. I am deeply committed to my community, obtaining my Ph.D. while working full-time and a new mother highlights my commitment to what I set out to do.

The County Clerk must be an administrator for the office – budget, personnel, policies, collaboration - and support both areas of focus we are responsible for in state law, and be able to do it well, as our community deserves it.



### County Clerk Cheryl De Young REPUBLICAN Candidate

1. Train Election workers with more hands-on training and provide cross-training for office staff. Follow the Election Code and organize staff to make sure that all deadlines are met. Begin processing absentee ballots as soon as the Election Code allows. Hire back up staff for relief during

excessive hours. Make sure that each step of the process is open for observation by any citizen who wished to observe the process.

2. Confirm that all documents are secure

and filed properly in a timely manner to ensure easy access. Guarantee that every election is transparent and open to all. Certify that all political parties are represented in

a balanced manner. Make sure that anyone who comes in to the office is treated with respect and given correct information. Confirm that the voter registration list is purged

when mailers come back as not deliverable.

3. I have decades of experience working elections. Previous jobs honed my skills of ensuring proper

handling and securing of documents. My leadership and organizational skills are solid. I have management and hiring experience. I relish working with people from

varied backgrounds and ideologies. I grasp a strong ability to lead others to follow government policy. I have 30 years of experience in training development and application.

## DOÑA ANA COUNTY TREASURER

### QUESTIONS FOR THE CANDIDATES FOR DOÑA ANA COUNTY TREASURER

(500 characters each)

1. What aspect of the Treasurer's responsibilities needs improvement? Explain.

2. How much discretion should the County Treasurer have in how County money is invested? Explain.

3. How better can the County Treasurer inform the public about how tax dollars are being invested and spent?



#### County Treasurer Bernadette A Dorazio REPUBLICAN Candidate

1. Treasurer needs to get involved in the economic development of DAC if only in an advisory capacity. The County's Community Development "One Valley, One Vision 2040 Regional Plan," which includes (unincorporated) and incorporated municipalities of: Anthony, Hatch, LC, Mesilla & Sunland Park, to develop the infrastructure for economic business growth, such as: living spaces, public services, land use & water rights. Yes, it's

slow to get "everyone's" consensus, but we must "Move Forward Together!"

2. The DAC Treasurer should use discretion with advisement. Currently, the Investment Advisory Committee, consisting of: the County Manager, the County Commissioner and three members of the public (including two Presidents of local banks and one NMSU Economics professor) meet two to three times a year, review the Treasurer's Investment Portfolio and provide feedback in the form of advice. I would also recommend that the DAC Treasurer's office should consult with the NM State Investment Council.

3. The DACT provides Monthly Financial Reports on the DACT website re: cash on hand, investments, debt schedule, property

tax distribution and a comparison of taxes due and collected. The DACT also produces a Newsletter with graphics re: the 2019 investment and distribution of property taxes. A statement on that webpage says, "The primary duties of a County Treasurer are to collect, invest and disperse taxpayer dollars." Look to the DAC Financial Services Dept. for the yearly budgets. Bern4DACT!



#### County Treasurer Eric L Rodriguez DEMOCRATIC Candidate

1. For this particular office we can improve

on process. Many of the practices that we have in place today are old manual business processes. My goal during my second term is to establish a fully automated functioning office that will increase efficiency and productivity. The end result for the taxpayer will be faster and better customer service. Since the implementation of a new tax program during my term, we have been able to make strides towards full automation within our processes.

2. A County Treasurer must have full discretion on an investment portfolio, as long as he/she is following an investment policy that is approved by a Board of Commissioners. Further it is recommended that a Treasurer have an advisory committee for the review

of investment strategy. The County Treasurer is in place for checks and balances. A commission determines the budget, the manager executes that budget, and a Treasurer manages the money to ensure separation of powers.

3. Information about the office can always be found online, however most people may not understand financial statements nor even care to look at them, so in 2018 we started sending out a newsletter with the second half tax notices that includes easy to read tax distribution and investment data. In addition, our office piloted a seminar called "Taxes and You" last year, that is designed to be informative. We are working to get into local classrooms to further our educational outreach efforts.

## DOÑA ANA COUNTY COMMISSIONER

### QUESTIONS FOR THE CANDIDATES FOR COUNTY COMMISSIONER

(500 characters each)

1. What changes, if any, are needed to improve policing in Dona Ana County? Explain.

2. What do you think are the most urgent and important issues for Dona Ana County to address? Explain.

3. What more can be done to reduce homelessness and poverty in Dona Ana County?

4. What further steps, if any, should be taken to ensure that the County Triage Center will open and operate successfully?



#### County Commissioner District 2 Diana Murillo-Trujillo DEMOCRATIC Candidate

1. Policing in Dona Ana County should have more community policing. With all the negative situations that have occurred nationally, many constituents feel they can't have trust in law enforcement. Conducting the proper guidelines, (social distancing, wearing masks) officers should

engage with anyone they see outside walking, i outside their yard and say hello and just let them know that he/she is there to assist in any way. In the future when the pandemic is over, play ball with kids.

2. At this time the most urgent and important issues in Dona Ana County are economic development and mental health issues. Many areas in Dona Ana County do not have economic development. Due to this there are no jobs and many constituents seek resources in Texas off other big municipalities. Many of them do not have transportation and do not have access to supplies, food and medicine. On

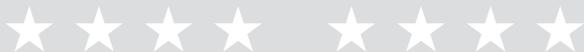
Mental Health issues, we need more professionals to come in into the County to assess individuals that need help

3. It would be of great assistance to the County to have small businesses partnering with the County to find resources to train individuals in trade skills so in the future they can become small business owners. Give a second opportunity to those that have felt they need a second chance to work

4. As a future County Commissioner my duty is to insure the County Triage Center opens. and functions properly. The County should look for resources to give the

proper training to law enforcement officials when apprehending anyone with mental health issues. There needs to be a concrete collaboration between the County, law enforcement and Mental health professionals. The County should consider a neutral party in conducting an assessment for a transitional smooth opening of the Center.

#### County Commissioner District 4 Irma Susana Chaparro DEMOCRATIC Candidate No response received





**County Commissioner District 4 Stacie Michelle Durham REPUBLICAN Canidate**

1. The need for community outreach is important. People should interact with law enforcement so that they can learn how to respect one another. It is crucial for children and their parents as well as extended family to learn how to present their selves when approaching our law enforcement. This includes All Departments. If I am elected we will have neighborhood watch

parties, celebrate our communities and actively participate in developing a relationship with our police in our communities.

2. We need to clean our neighborhoods from dangerous/dilapidated housing and be sure that all fire hydrants work properly. This alone will bring the property value up and keep us safe. We can then begin to build a nice safe economic environment in the county.

3. Economic Development within the County by inviting outside businesses to grow, and like New Mexico. The solution is keeping business friendly people employed. making attractive offers to businesses and hiring at will people will give opportunities to local people to allow social mobility!

- 4. 1.) Caring Doctors
- 2.) Less Medication
- 3.) Completion of Programs
- 4.) Serious Sponsorship

**County Commissioner District 4 Buck Bonner LIBERTARIAN Canidate Unable to contact**

**County Commissioner District 5 Robert Bruce Flora REPUBLICAN Canidate No response received**



**County Commissioner District 5 Manuel A Sanchez DEMOCRATIC Canidate**

1. I believe that Sheriff Stewart has done an excellent job leading the Sheriff's Department as is witnessed by the minimal number of complaints. She has done a great job of ensuring her deputies are visible and building relationships within the community. We are currently working with the Sheriff to improve the radio system and reduce dead spots for deputies in the County. I will continue to work with the Sheriff to understand what her plans are and how the Commission can help support them.

2. We need to focus on infrastructure and focus on developing our short term plan. I'm currently working with County staff so we can apply for grant funding to expand broadband services. I have also added

drainage projects on the County's ICIP list to drive improvements within the colonias. We need to improve these areas for our residents and to continue to attract businesses. We also need to develop a 3-5 year plan for the County that gives us a visible direction in our decision making.

3. Through the County's Health & Human Services Department, we have been working with community partners to identify the needs of those within the various communities and colonias across the County. I believe one of the best ways we can assist is finding opportunities for education, job training, and increasing job opportunities in Doña Ana County. In 2019, we introduced bus service from the northern part of the County that

includes stops at DACC and NMSU helping provide access to our residents.

4. Now that the Triage Center operator has been approved, we will request regular updates on the licensing process with the State Department of Health. Once the Triage Center becomes licensed and fully operational, the County Commission will rely on input from a community advisory board that will be formed to monitor the performance of the center. We need to continue to expand mental health services that should include mobile crisis units and training of the regional dispatch center.



**NEW MEXICO THIRD JUDICIAL COURT DISTRICT JUDGE RETENTION**

The New Mexico Judicial Performance Evaluation Commission was created by the Supreme Court of New Mexico to improve the performance of judges and provide useful, credible information to voters on judges standing for retention. Vote yes or no. Judges must receive 57% voter approval to remain on the bench. See <https://www.nmjpec.org/en/> for evaluations of district judges.

**QUESTIONS FOR THE CANDIDATES FOR THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT JUDGE (RETENTION)**

**1. What concerns, if any, do you have about for-profit guardianships in New Mexico?**

**2. What are your views on whether the Court, as a whole, deals effectively with racial and gender bias?**



**Third District Judge Manuel L Arrieta (Division 1)**

1. Since the enactment of the new Guardianship laws in 2019, the concerns of financial fraud or mismanagement involving for-profit guardianship cases have lessened due to increased reporting and supervision. While the new laws been generally effective and have largely accomplished their intent, many small guardianships have experienced a significant reporting burden. In some case, legal representation has become cost prohibitive.

2. It is a guiding principle of the judiciary to dedicate itself to the administration of equal justice under the law. However, just as times change, so does

society's sense of justice. As a judiciary, we must continuously strive to critically examine what is just - not only for society, but for every person that comes before the Court. This is more than a commitment, but an ongoing effort to ensure that regardless of race or gender, all persons are treated equally under the law.

**Third District Judge Marci E Beyer (Division 2)**

1. There is always a concern that for-profit guardianship entities will put their own financial interests above those of the ward. In addition, when the guardian is not someone who has had a long time relationship with the ward, there is an additional concern that the guardian may not have enough information to make decisions that are in the best interest of the ward.

2. The Court does not effectively deal fairly with racial and gender bias as a

whole, but the judges who care about these issues have taken advantage of the trainings that we have been provided that allow us to be more aware of these issues and our biases and ways to compensate for them. Some judges are better at handling these issues than others, but we all need to strive to be better. The biggest challenge is to be aware of our own biases so that we can deal with them.



**Third District Judge Conrad F Perea (Division 3)**

1. The State of New Mexico has taken many actions to address the need to promote and protect the wellbeing of incapacitated individuals. The enactment of statues and rules along

with recent amendments to the statutes and rules reflect the focus of the state and its courts to more effectively provide this protection. The concern that I have regarding for-profit guardianships is that a guardianship may become more of a business proposition and there may be a loss of a personal connection.

2. It is my view that the courts in our venue do an exemplary job of effectively dealing with racial and gender bias. Racial and gender bias are of great concern today but these are concerns that have been important throughout our history. Courts must address these biases by using respectful language, to include nonverbal communication that is also respectful and effective. The judge's behavior and attitude can have a great effect on all courtroom participants.



**Third District Judge Mary W Rosner (Division 4)**

1. My concern regarding for-profit guardianships is that the power to make decisions concerning one's relatives, in some cases, has been transferred to a business and the family members are marginalized or excluded.

2. Gender and racial equality is something our statutes have already addressed. Everyone who comes before the court should be treated the same, regardless of color, religion or sexual preference. However with the lack of social justice and equality issues now so dramatically in front of the electorate, I attempt to be more mindful, and sensitive to all human beings who come before me.



### Third District Judge Lisa C Schultz (Division 5)

1. With oversight, for-profit Guardianship services can be very helpful. The NM Judiciary has worked to address certain significant issues concerning Guardianships. This area deserves attention because the Guardianship organizations serve persons who are utterly vulnerable. Oversight is critical. To serve those who are dependent upon it, a for-profit Guardianship Corporation should be held to high standards. However, let us appreciate those Guardians who do a wonderful job for those in need.

2. The Court is not

perfect. Judges must confront our own racial and gender bias. This is our duty, as human beings and individuals who strive to provide the best judicial services. We aspire to judge all persons fairly, with nothing less than the vaunted ideals of equality and justice as inseparable attributes. My Grandfather's family was killed by the Nazis. My life's work is to pursue equality and justice, confront prejudice, defend our fragile American Democracy, and protect the vulnerable.



### Third District Judge James T. Martin (Division 6)

1. The vast majority of adult guardianships in New Mexico are for family members caring for elderly parents or disabled children. For some adults in our community, there are no family or friends who are willing or able to take responsibility for these vulnerable individuals. Therefore, a professional guardian must be appointed to provide support and access to services, unfortunately, our small and semi-rural community lacks the financial ability to provide many of these services.

2. The motto for the Judiciary is, "Equal Justice Under Law". While most people have seen the statue of Lady Justice with her scales and blindfold, as a judge I cannot be blind to bias. Instead, I must be mindful about bias in the courts and ensure

that everyone who comes before me is treated fairly, according to the law and evidence submitted. Judges are leaders in the courtroom, therefore, we owe a duty to exercise our judgment impartially and without regard to any sympathy, bias or prejudice.



### Third District Judge Douglas R Driggers (Division 7)

1. My only concerns are the for-profit guardianship entity be carefully regulated by the Courts to assure the public that only reasonable and necessary charges are made and that the for-profit guardianship entity

is thoroughly qualified to perform those services.

2. In accordance with the Code of Judicial Conduct, my goal is to be fair and impartial to all litigants that appear before me regardless of race or gender. As a judge in the criminal court in a diverse county, I conscientiously work to achieve that standard in all cases.



### Third District Judge Grace B Duran (Division 8)

1. I am aware of some community concerns regarding guardianships of incapacitated persons due to a disability or age. However, changes to the

guardianship laws in 2018 and 2019 provide for more oversight and require annual reports which should alleviate some of these concerns. There is also a mechanism in place to file a grievance or complaint regarding a court appointed guardian.

2. There are laws in place prohibiting discrimination on the basis of race, sex, national origin and sexual orientation. Judges are required to enforce the law and set aside any personal preferences or bias. For example, under New Mexico law, the Courts are precluded in custody disputes from having a preference for one parent over another on the basis of gender. As a judge I endeavor to be as fair and impartial as possible and avoid making any decisions until I have heard a case in its entirety.

## CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

1. Make the PRC an appointed three-member commission rather than an elected body.

2. Authorize the legislature to enact laws that may change the election dates of non-statewide officeholders to evenly distribute the number of offices appearing on ballots.

*The following summaries and arguments are condensed from material provided by the NM Legislative Council Service (LSC) staff. Neither the LSC nor the League has an opinion on the amendments and makes no claim for the validity or consistency of the arguments presented.*

### CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT 1

**PROPOSING TO AMEND THE CONSTITUTION OF NEW MEXICO TO PROVIDE THAT THE PUBLIC REGULATION**

**COMMISSION CONSIST OF THREE MEMBERS APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR FROM A LIST OF PROFESSIONALLY QUALIFIED NOMINEES SUBMITTED TO THE GOVERNOR BY A NOMINATING COMMITTEE AS PROVIDED BY LAW AND THAT THE COMMISSION IS REQUIRED TO REGULATE PUBLIC UTILITIES AND MAY BE REQUIRED TO REGULATE OTHER PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANIES.**

### Summary of Proposed Constitutional Amendment 1

Constitutional Amendment 1 would amend Article 11, Section 1 of the Constitution of New Mexico to reduce the number of Public Regulation Commission (PRC) members to three, with no more than two members from the same political party. Members would no longer be elected, but instead would be

appointed for six-year terms by the governor, with the consent of the senate, from a list of nominees submitted to the governor through a newly established Public Regulation Commission Nominating Committee. Constitutional Amendment 1 would also amend Article 11, Section 2 of the Constitution of New Mexico to narrow the scope of the PRC's constitutionally granted regulatory powers to public utilities, while still allowing the legislature to assign responsibility for the regulation of other public service companies to the commission by law.

### Arguments For

1. By insulating the commission from electoral politics, the commissioners may be better able to carry out their duties in

an unbiased fashion. They could also focus on the interests of the ratepayers throughout the state rather than individual districts.

2. It would provide for increased vetting of commissioners and better ensure that well-qualified individuals serve on the PRC. New Mexico would join the vast majority of states that regulate utilities through governor-appointed commissions.

3. The PRC is a quasi-judicial body. Improved screening and qualification requirements would help ensure that commissioners possess the experience and training necessary to make decisions within the complex legal framework that governs public utility regulation.

### Arguments Against

1. It does not change how the PRC actually

functions. The amendment leaves it up to the legislature to provide for how commissioners will be evaluated and what qualifications commissioners will be required to have.

2. It removes the voters' ability to hold commissioners accountable for their actions. Electing commissioners from their respective districts allows the public more direct oversight of commissioners and their decisions.

3. The process to remove a commissioner would be more involved and take more time.

### CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT 2

**PROPOSING TO AMEND ARTICLE 20, SECTION 3 OF THE CONSTITUTION OF NEW MEXICO TO PERMIT THE ADJUSTMENT BY LAW OF TERMS OF NON-**

**STATEWIDE ELECTED OFFICERS AND TO STANDARDIZE THE DATE AN OFFICER BEGINS TO SERVE.**

### Summary of Proposed Constitutional Amendment 2

Constitutional Amendment 2 proposes to amend Article 20, Section 3 of the Constitution of New Mexico to allow the legislature to adjust the term of a state, county or district officer to align or stagger the election of officers for a particular state, county or district office throughout the state. No statewide elective office would be subject to adjustment. The proposed amendment also clarifies that officers elected to fill a vacancy in office shall take office on the first day of January following their election.

SEE **AMENDMENTS**, PAGE 16

## AMENDMENTS CONTINUED FROM 15

### Arguments For

1. It provides the legislature with the constitutional authority to ensure uniformity of elections and balance in the number of offices on the ballot. The legislature can address election cycle concerns without requiring individual amendments for each office. It provides the legislature with the

constitutional authority to ensure uniformity of constitutional amendments for each office.

2. It would protect against legislative overreach by requiring the legislature to adopt specific legislative findings supporting an adjustment. In order to make an adjustment the legislature must find that it is necessary for consistency in the timing of elections

for that office or to balance the number of offices appearing on the ballot.

3. Balancing the number of contests appearing on a ballot during alternating election cycles and implementing a standardized start date for all newly elected officers may help alleviate issues created by an overloaded or long ballot and increase efficiency in the state's administration of elections

and training.

### Arguments Against

1. It expands the legislature's constitutional powers over election policy issues and could be legally challenged. Although it requires that a legislative finding is necessary, it may allow the legislature to amend terms for other reasons as long as the finding states that it is meant to provide for

consistency or balance.

2. It may be overly broad. Not only those offices that are in need of being aligned or staggered on the presidential or gubernatorial general election ballots may be affected. It gives the legislature broad discretion to change the election cycle in which a state, county or district office is elected.

3. Some incumbent officeholders will gain

an extra two years in office, while others will serve terms that expire two years early for reasons unrelated to their performance. Additionally, when election cycles are being synchronized, terms limits will not apply to the affected offices.

## NEW MEXICO GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS AND TAXES

### 2020 CAPITAL PROJECTS GENERAL OBLIGATION BOND ACT

The New Mexico Legislature passed the 2020 Capital Projects General Obligation Bond Act detailing projects that would be funded by these bonds. No bonds will be issued or sold under the act until the state's registered voters have voted upon and approved the bonds. Each bond is voted upon separately with a "For" or "Against" question.

**Summary:** The three 2020 bond issues ask for voter approval to issue general obligation bonds as follows:

**Bond Issue A**, in an amount not to exceed \$33,292,141 to make capital expenditures for certain senior citizen facility improvements, construction, and equipment acquisition projects;

**Bond Issue B**, in an amount not to exceed \$9,751,433 to make capital expenditures for academic, public school, tribal, and public library resource acquisitions; and

**Bond Issue C**, in an amount not to exceed \$156,358,475 to make capital expenditures for certain higher education, special schools, and tribal schools capital improvements and acquisitions.

The total for all three questions, including bond issuance costs, is **\$199,402,049**. A complete breakdown of the designated projects under each bond issue can be found on the New Mexico Legislature's website: <https://www.nmlegis.gov/Sessions/20%20Regular/final/SBO207.pdf>.

### BOND QUESTION A – Aging and Long-Term Services Department

The 2020 Capital Projects General Obligation Bond Act authorizes the issuance and sale of senior citizen facility improvement, construction and equipment acquisition bonds. Shall the state be authorized to issue general obligation bonds in an amount not to exceed thirty-three million two hundred ninety-two thousand one hundred forty-one dollars (\$33,292,141) to make capital expenditures for certain senior citizen facility improvement, construction and equipment acquisition projects and provide for a general property tax imposition and levy for the payment of principal of, interest on and expenses incurred in connection with the issuance of the bonds and the collection of the tax

as permitted by law?  
For \_\_\_\_\_ Against \_\_\_\_\_;

### BOND QUESTION B – Library Acquisitions

The 2020 Capital Projects General Obligation Bond Act authorizes the issuance and sale of library acquisition bonds. Shall the state be authorized to issue general obligation bonds in an amount not to exceed nine million seven hundred fifty-one thousand four hundred thirty-three dollars (\$9,751,433) to make capital expenditures for academic, public school, tribal and public library resource acquisitions and provide for a general property tax imposition and levy for the payment of principal of, interest on and expenses incurred in connection with the issuance of the bonds and the collection of the tax as

permitted by law?  
For \_\_\_\_\_ Against \_\_\_\_\_;

### BOND QUESTION C – Higher Education

The 2020 Capital Projects General Obligation Bond Act authorizes the issuance and sale of higher education, special schools and tribal schools capital improvement and acquisition bonds. Shall the state be authorized to issue general obligation bonds in an amount not to exceed one hundred fifty-six million three hundred fifty-eight thousand four hundred seventy-five dollars (\$156,358,475) to make capital expenditures for certain higher education, special schools and tribal schools capital improvements and acquisitions and provide for a general property tax imposition and levy for the payment of principal of,

interest on and expenses incurred in connection with the issuance of the bonds and the collection of the tax as permitted by law?  
For \_\_\_\_\_ Against \_\_\_\_\_;

Each question set forth in this section includes a specific work or object to be financed by the bonds. If any such question is not approved by a majority vote of the electorate at the state's 2020 general election, the issuance of bonds for the work or object specified by the question shall be excluded from and shall not be part of the 2020 Capital Projects General Obligation Bond Act. The failure of a question to be approved by the electorate at the 2020 general election shall not affect those questions that are approved at the election.



### The League Of Women Voters Of Southern New Mexico

**LWVSNM Voter Services:** Dale Yeo, Helen Zagona, Co-Chairs; Dale Yeo, Voters Guide Editor. Thank you Vicki Simons for your help.

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## LOCAL BALLOT PROPOSITIONS

**District Type: Municipal**  
**Question Type: Proposition**  
**Municipality: Hatch**

### VILLAGE OF HATCH BEER AND WINE LICENSES

Do the residents of the Village of Hatch wish to allow issuance of beer and wine licenses in the Village of Hatch?